

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

The Abstract has been amended as follows:

A method of forming a diffusion barrier for an implantable medical device, ~~such as a~~  
~~stent~~, carrying a therapeutic or bioactive substance is disclosed. The diffusion barrier reduces the  
rate at which the therapeutic or bioactive substance is released from the device. The diffusion  
barrier can be made from a polymeric material impregnated with particles.